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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 APPROXIMATELY \$48,500.00 IN  
15 U.S. CURRENCY,

16 Defendant.

2:21-MC-00012-MCE-DB

CONSENT JUDGMENT OF FORFEITURE

17 Pursuant to the Stipulation for Consent Judgment of Forfeiture, the Court finds:

18 1. On August 26, 2020, federal and state law enforcement executed search warrants at five  
19 real properties in San Joaquin County that had been converted into illegal marijuana grow houses. One  
20 of the properties searched was 1443 London Avenue, Manteca, California where law enforcement seized  
21 a total of \$48,500.00 in U.S. Currency (“defendant currency”).

22 2. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) commenced administrative forfeiture  
23 proceedings, sending direct written notice to all potential claimants and publishing notice to all others.  
24 On October 22, 2020, CBP received a claim from Min Guo (“Guo”) and Lianfeng Li (“Li”) asserting  
25 ownership in \$18,500.00 of the \$48,500.00 in U.S. Currency. On October 22, 2020, the CBP received a  
26 claim from Xiaobing Wang (“Wang”) asserting an ownership in \$30,000.00 of the \$48,500.00 in U.S.  
27 Currency.

28 3. The United States represents that it could show at a forfeiture trial that since mid 2020 the

1 Manteca Police Department was investigating multiple illegal marijuana grow houses associated with  
2 Wang, Guo, Li, and others. On August 26, 2020, law enforcement executed search warrants at the  
3 following real properties: (1) 1443 London Avenue, Manteca, CA; (2) 864 Zurich Way, Manteca, CA;  
4 (3) 5691 Vintage Circle Stockton, CA; (4) 1543 Nicol Way, Manteca, CA; and (5) 11307 Talc Street,  
5 Lathrop, CA.

6 4. The United States represents that it could further show at a forfeiture trial that during the  
7 execution of a search warrant at the Zurich Way property, law enforcement found approximately 352  
8 mature marijuana plants and approximately 136 small marijuana plants. The Zurich Way property is  
9 owned by Wang. During the execution of a search warrant at the Vintage Circle property, law  
10 enforcement found approximately 181 marijuana plants. The Vintage Circle property is owned by Guo.  
11 At the Nicol Way property, law enforcement found mail addressed to Wang, and utility bills for the other  
12 grow houses, pay/owe notebooks, copies of a \$30,000 and a \$95,000 cashier's check, and \$5,071.00 in  
13 cash. Wang was arrested at the Nicol Way property and was charged with five counts of violating state  
14 drug laws. On April 30, 2021, Wang pled guilty to two counts of Cultivation Marijuana; More than six  
15 Plants in violation of Health & Safety Code § 11358(c).

16 5. The United States represents that during the execution of a search warrant at the Talc  
17 Street property, law enforcement found approximately 487 marijuana plants and keys for a vehicle  
18 parked at the Nicol Way property. At the London Avenue property, law enforcement found \$30,500.00  
19 in cash and ledgers that referenced the other grow houses. Law enforcement found \$18,000 in cash in  
20 Guo and Li's bedroom. The London Avenue property is owned by Guo.

21 6. The United States could further show at a forfeiture trial that the defendant currency is  
22 forfeitable to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C).

23 7. Without admitting the truth of the factual assertions contained above, claimants  
24 specifically denying the same, and for the purpose of reaching an amicable resolution and compromise of  
25 this matter, claimants agree that an adequate factual basis exists to support forfeiture of the defendant  
26 currency. Claimants acknowledged that they are the sole owners of the defendant currency, and that no  
27 other person or entity has any legitimate claim of interest therein. Should any person or entity institute  
28 any kind of claim or action against the government with regard to its forfeiture of the defendant currency,

claimants shall hold harmless and indemnify the United States, as set forth below.

8. This Court has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355, as this is the judicial district in which acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture occurred.

9. This Court has venue pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1395, as this is the judicial district in which the defendant currency was seized.

10. The parties herein desire to settle this matter pursuant to the terms of a duly executed Stipulation for Consent Judgment.

Based upon the above findings, and the files and records of the Court, it is hereby ORDERED AND ADJUDGED:

1. The Court adopts the Stipulation for Consent Judgment of Forfeiture entered into by and between the parties.

2. Upon entry of this Consent Judgment of Forfeiture, \$31,000.00 of the Approximately \$48,500.00 in U.S. Currency, together with any interest that may have accrued on the total amount seized, shall be forfeited to the United States pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), to be disposed of according to law.

3. Upon entry of this Consent Judgment of Forfeiture, but no later than 60 days thereafter, \$17,500.00 of the Approximately \$48,500.00 in U.S. Currency shall be returned to claimants Xiaobing Wang, Min Guo, and Lianfeng Li through their attorney Mark Reichel.

4. The United States of America and its servants, agents, and employees and all other public entities, their servants, agents and employees, are released from any and all liability arising out of or in any way connected with the seizure or forfeiture of the defendant currency. This is a full and final release applying to all unknown and unanticipated injuries, and/or damages arising out of said seizure or forfeiture, as well as to those now known or disclosed. The parties waived the provisions of California Civil Code § 1542.

5. No portion of the stipulated settlement, including statements or admissions made therein, shall be admissible in any criminal action pursuant to Rules 408 and 410(a)(4) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

6. All parties will bear their own costs and attorney's fees.

1           7.       Pursuant to the Stipulation for Consent Judgment of Forfeiture filed herein, the Court  
2 enters a Certificate of Reasonable Cause pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2465, that there was reasonable cause  
3 for the seizure of the above-described defendant currency.

4           IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 Dated: August 21, 2023

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8 MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.  
9 SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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